
POPULATION CONTROL BILL OF INDIA

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Abstract

Population control refers to the deliberate manipulation of a population's demographic makeup through policies aimed at reducing fertility rates, migration rates, or immigration rates. In recent times, there has been a growing emphasis on curtailing global population growth due to concerns about its contribution to issues such as environmental degradation, resource depletion, and poverty. However, there are varying opinions on the efficacy of population control measures, with some arguing that there is insufficient evidence to support these claims and that such policies can result in human rights violations. More research is needed to better understand the factors influencing population dynamics and their implications.

In this short article, we will study about the Five Year Plans regarding the population and the Population Control Bill of India. Population control is necessary to save the resources for the future generations. Because we are wasting the important resources which are very essentials for the life. We also study the measures to control the population.

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Introduction

India has a country of diverse ethnic, linguistic, cultural and religious characteristics.^[i] As we all know that we are the second most populated country in the World behind China with the population of 142.86 Crores. It is such a big number. As we know that we don't have enough resources for all of the population. We don't have enough land so that all the people are living under the roof. We don't have enough water resources in our country to quench the thirst of every person. In 21st Century, we are wasting our too much resources and no one is caring about their future generations. The population is increasing day by day and we don't have enough resources for all the people.

We are the second most populated country in the world behind China. But even then we need a strong and rigid legislation regarding the population control. As per the census of 1891, India had the population of approximately 24 Crores and till 1921 the population increased by 1.2 Crores. From the year 1921 (also known as the year of Demographic Divide or the year of Great Divide), the population of India increased rapidly and there was no reduction in the population of India. There were many five year plans which were introduced earlier and a bill was also introduced in Lok Sabha in 2019 which is yet to become an act.

Five Year Plans for the Population Control

- 1. Sixth Five Year Plan:-** This plan was introduced in the year 1980 for the next five years. It was applied in 1985. This plan was introduced by Indira Gandhi Government to prevent over population and family planning of two children was introduced. Several other targets were also set by the Government. It became successful by achieving 5.7% growth against the target of 5.2% growth.^[ii]
- 2. Eighth Five Year Plan:-** This plan was introduced by PV Narsimha Rao Government in 1992 for the next five years. This plan focused on the population control, reduce poverty, generate employment, etc. This plan became successful as it achieved the growth rate of 6.8% against the target rate of 5.6%.^[iii]

These were the two plans which were focusing on the population control and somehow these plans were become successful. But India needed a law on the Population Control.

Population Control Bill, 2019

Population Control Bill was introduced in Lok Sabha in July 2019 by Rakesh Sinha. But this bill was withdrawn in 2022 by the Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare Shri Mansukh Mandaviya. The main purpose of the bill is to control the growth in the population of India.

The *Section 3* of the Bill said that this bill was applicable on the married couples only as well as on the boy till the age of 21 years and on the girl till the age of 18 years. *Section 6* of the bill pertains that if the married couples have only one child will get the preference in the admission in institutes of Higher Education. They also will be eligible for the preference in the Government Jobs and for some other benefits also.

Section 7 of the bill said that the Government will give sixty thousand rupees to the boy or one lakh rupees to the girl if the married couples have only one child. *Section 8* of the bill pertained that any couple who has more than two children will have no right to elect in the Rajya Sabha as well as in the State Legislature or in any other similar bodies. They don't have any right in getting the promotion in the Government Jobs and has no right in applying the Grade A+ jobs in Central as well as in State Government. They will be debarred from any government subsidy if the married couples live above the Poverty Line.

Therefore by analysing these sections of the bill, I have concluded that the Government wanted to adopt the two child policy through this bill. But this bill was highly criticised by many experts.

Constitutional Challenges of the Population Control Bill, 2019

- If the bill enacted, then the Population Control Bill should consider the rights of divorced couples and the Islamic Religion. But this proposed bill had not taken account these points.
- The second challenge of the Bill is that if any married couple has more than two children then will they be penalised?
- The Bill doesn't contain any provision regarding the retrospective effect. Then will it be applied retrospectively?

Measures to Control the Population

- Self-control
- Proper and accurate Family Planning
- Late Marriage
- Increase the standard of living
- More employment opportunities
- Spread of Education regarding the population control
- Use of the contraceptive materials while doing sexual intercourse
- The Government should give monetary incentives for the birth control.^[iv]

Conclusion

Through this analysis, I conclude that the Population Control Bill is very difficult to introduce. Because the population is very large in number and there are many couples which have more than two children, then Government has to make such type of provisions which covers the point of more than two children. So, Government has to make such provisions which cover all the aspects regarding the population. Government should adopt some measures which help the Government in controlling the Population.

In my opinion, Government should enact the Population Control Bill, 2019 by making some amendments so that it covers the whole population including more than two children married couples' as well as it is not against the public policy. By this act, the wastage of the resources should not take place and it will be saved for the future generations.

References

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